

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

East Germany

COUNTRY

REPORT

TOPIC

Military Activities in the Area of the First Gds Mecz Army

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 18 August 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. At 1800 on 22 July 1955, a freight train which, among other materiel, carried 2 canvas-covered T-54 tanks, went from Riesa toward Dresden.<sup>1</sup>
2. At 0400 on 25 July, the following column left the Mudra Kaserne (1801) in Riesa: 4 trucks, each carrying 6 to 8 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and each towing 1 x 37-mm AA gun, 1 four-wheel and 1 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, 5 trucks loaded with gratings, 5 trucks towing 85-mm AA guns, 1 truck towing a range finder, 5 trucks, each occupied by 8 to 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, 4 trucks, each towing a field kitchen, and 3 repair shop trucks. The column proceeded toward Peritz through Zeithain-Radewitz.<sup>2</sup>
3. At 0430 on 25 July, the following troops and materiel left the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) in Riesa:

17 T-54 tanks, 2 salvage tanks, 8 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, 6 trucks, each occupied by 20 to 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, 4 trucks with ammunition boxes, 10 to 15 trucks, 3 four-seat command cars

4 jeeps 1 tank truck and 1 ambulance.

The column proceeded toward Peritz through Zeithain-Radewitz.<sup>3</sup>

1. Comment. The 2 T-54 tanks which were observed on a freight train from Riesa toward Dresden may tend to indicate that not all of the T-54 tanks, which arrived in the area of the 9th Tank Div. (Riesa-Zeithain) on troop trains from the USSR, were bound for the 9th Tank Div, as had been inferred from the places of destination. It is possible that, for camouflage reasons, shipments which had been dispatched to the Riesa-Zeithain area, were subsequently broken down and forwarded to the adjoining quartering area of the 11th Gds Tank Div. (Dresden/ Meissen) aboard regular freight

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trains. According to available information, the 9th Tank Div. received some 385 T-54 tanks prior to 1 August 1955 while, during the same period, about 51 tanks were dispatched to the unloading stations of the 11th Gds Tank Div. Similar observations were made with the 7th (Dessau-Zinna, Jueterbog area) and 6th Gds Tank Div, Wittenberg, which prior to 31 July 1955, received some 387 and 31 T-54 tanks, respectively. Since major tank elements of the 6th Gds Tank Div. have been located presumably in the area southeast of Jueterbog, on 25 June, it is possible that some of the shipments in Zinna were bound for the 6th Gds Tank Div, rather than the 7th Gds Tank Div. The 10th Gds Tank Div. received about 212 T-54 tanks and the 12th Gds Tank Div. approximately 198 T-54 tanks.

If, however, the number of approximately 380 medium tanks (T-54s) for each tank divisions, should prove correct, the following organization and equipment can be assumed:

exchange of all T-34 tanks against T-54s;  
increase of tank equipment of companies from 10 to about 17 tanks

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equipment of all 3 battalions of tank regiments with T-54s exclusively;  
equipment of one battalion of the Hv Tank SP Regt with T-54s.

No definite information has been received on the destination of the surplus T-34 tanks.

2. Comment. Elements of the 216th (?) AAA Regt of the 9th Tank Div. probably left for the Zeithain training grounds.
3. Comment. The observation of 17 tanks with this column indicates a possible increase of the equipment of companies from 10 to 17 tanks. These elements of the 9th Tank Div. presumably of the 108th Tank Regt, probably left for a large-scale exercise at the Zeithain training grounds.

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